

Examination of Band Recoveries of Yellow-breasted Chats

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The Yellow-breasted Chat (*Icteria virens*) commonly nests in North and South Carolina, and readers of *The Chat* cannot fail to be interested in the life of the bird for which their journal is named. I obtained from the Bird Banding Laboratory a listing of all Yellow-breasted Chats encountered after being banded in North America before 11 July 1986. The birds were banded in three countries, including Canada, Mexico, and the United States. Twenty of the United States were represented, chiefly in the east.

Thirteen of the 68 (19.1%) recoveries were of birds found shortly after banding, with no migration season between banding and recovery dates. Of the remaining 55 recoveries, 46 (67.6%) were of birds found during the nesting season in the same 10 minute latitude/longitude block occupied during an earlier nesting season. A strong tendency is thus shown for Yellow-breasted Chats to return for successive nesting seasons to the same general locality.

Two of the 68 (2.9%) recoveries were of birds leaving the latitude/longitude block where they were banded to be found elsewhere in the state, leaving 7 (10.3%) Yellow-breasted Chats recovered outside of the state where they were banded. These recoveries show birds going from Maryland to West Virginia, from Massachusetts to New Jersey, from Indiana to Ohio, and from Ontario to Michigan.

Of the 68 recoveries of banded Yellow-breasted Chats, only one was of a bird banded in North and South Carolina. This bird was banded in North Carolina by Mrs. E. P. Teulings on 4 June 1967 and recovered on 13 May 1969 in the same 10 minute latitude/longitude block where it was banded, suggesting return of the bird to its nesting grounds.

Southward migration of Yellow-breasted Chats is shown best by a bird banded by Mrs. R. R. Larsen on 28 September 1965 in Massachusetts and recovered on 3 October 1965 in New Jersey, having traveled approximately 290 km southwestwardly in five days at a rate of 58 km per day. The time of southward migration is also shown as being during late September and early October.

The longest distance traveled by a banded Yellow-breasted Chat was by a bird banded in New Jersey on 12 September 1961 by Mr. and Mrs. W. Pepper and recovered in Mexico on 26 April 1962, having traveled approximately 2700 km. Also shown is the fact that chats may remain on their wintering grounds until late April.